

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the
Commission's Proposed Policies and Programs
Governing Post-2003 Low-Income Assistance
Programs

Rulemaking 04-01-006

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO
THE LOW INCOME OVERSIGHT BOARD**

On October 7, 2005, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 580 which expands the duties of the Low Income Oversight Board (LIOB) to include advising the Commission on low-income water customer issues and to serve as a liaison for the Commission to those low-income ratepayers. (Public Utilities Code § 382.1) SB 580 also adds two positions to the LIOB. By this Ruling, I hereby invite individuals who are interested in applying for these new member positions (one water and one public member) on the LIOB to submit a letter of interest and a resumé, including references.

The positions are for a one-year term commencing upon appointment by the Commission. One position is reserved for a representative of a water corporation, which is defined as "every corporation or person, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any water system for compensation within this State." (Public Utilities Code § 241.) The second position is for a representative with expertise in the low-income community and cannot be affiliated with any state agencies or utility groups.

The LIOB advises the Commission on low-income electricity, gas, and water customer issues and serves as a liaison for the Commission to low-income ratepayers and representatives. As set forth in Public Utilities Code § 382.1, the responsibilities of the LIOB are to:¹

1. Monitor and evaluate implementation of all programs provided to low-income electricity, gas, and water customers.
2. Assist in the development and analysis of any assessments of low-income customer need.
3. Encourage collaboration between state and utility programs for low-income electricity and gas customers to maximize the leverage of state and federal energy efficiency funds to both lower the bills and increase the comfort of low-income customers.
4. Provide reports to the Legislature, as requested, summarizing the assessment of needs, audits, and analysis of program implementation.
5. Assist in streamlining the application and enrollment process of programs for low-income electricity and natural gas customers with general low-income programs, including, but not limited to, the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (ULTS) program and, including compliance with Section 739.1.
6. Encourage the usage of the network of community service providers in accordance with Section 381.5.

The LIOB alternates meeting locations between northern, central and southern California. The LIOB holds 4 to 5 meetings annually with additional meetings and/or conference calls as necessary. Members of the LIOB are eligible for compensation in accordance with the state's travel guidelines.

¹ All statutory references are to the Public Utilities Code, unless otherwise noted.

Upon receipt and review of the applications, candidates will be selected for interviews. The final nominee must be approved by the full Commission.

Therefore, **IT IS RULED** that:

Individuals interested in being appointed to the Low Income Oversight Board must submit an original and three copies of a letter of interest and a resumé, including references, by no later than February 1, 2006 to:

Karen Degannes
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dated January 5, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DIAN M. GRUENEICH

Dian M. Grueneich
Assigned Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Inviting Applications for Appointment to the Low Income Oversight Board on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated January 5, 2006 at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DAVID NG

David Ng

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.